

Public Comment  
Sullivan County Legislature  
Executive Committee  
Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Good Morning.

I am Martha Scoppa from Liberty. I am also a member of the Senior Legislative Action Committee.

I remain very concerned about the quality of care for residents at the Adult Care Center at Sunset Lake, especially after reading the recently released NYS Department of Health survey report printed November 8. This survey is called a Statement of Deficiencies and Plan of Correction and was conducted this year from Sunday, September 22, through Friday, September 27, at the Adult Care Center. The current survey shows that our Adult Care Center continues to have deficiencies in areas that were reported in the previous survey dated January 2023.

As you know, Sullivan County, owner and operator of the Care Center, has a consulting agreement with Infinite Care, a for-profit company, to manage the nursing home and rehabilitation services.

As you also know, Infinite Care has applied to NYS DOH under the name Sunset SNF Operations LLC for a Certificate of Need. If their Certificate of Need is approved, Infinite Care is eligible to move forward with the transfer of operations of the Adult Care Center from Sullivan County. This recent survey makes it very clear that Infinite Care would not be a good operator.

It is time for the Legislature to recognize that Infinite Care is not living up to the terms of the consulting agreement. The Adult Care Center enjoyed four-star and five-star ratings when it was operated by Sullivan County and was a well-respected nursing home. Today, the facility has an overall one-star rating which is entitled “much below average” by CMS.

Back in March, five members of this Legislature sent a letter to the NYS DOH expressing their support of Infinite Care. The letter stated their wish to “advocate strongly and express our support for the approval of Sunset SNF Operations LLC as the operator of the Sullivan County Adult Care Center.” The five legislators who signed the March 11, 2024, letter are Nadia Rajs, District 2, Chair (D); Nicholas Salomone, Jr., District 4 (R); Joseph Perrello, District 7, Vice Chair (R); Amanda Ward, District 8 (R); and Terry Blosser-Bernardo, District 9 (R). They also endorsed the management of Infinite Care for its “remarkable advancements across crucial areas of care.” Maybe it’s time to rethink that position and look hard at the facts. The recent survey certainly shows that Infinite Care is not providing quality care to the residents.

It is not easy to change one’s mind. It’s not easy to review an issue and reverse course. Please think about the residents who are frail and vulnerable. Why are they living at the Adult Care Center? A stroke, a bad accident, a debilitating disease, cognitive decline – something that has made them dependent on others for their daily care. Our county provides that care. Our nursing home is a service to the public. We should do everything we can to ensure that the residents are receiving quality care.

Thank you.